

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee was held on Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Chair Bernie Erickson, Ed Koslowski, Jerry Polus, Joan Brusky, Louise Dahlke, Duane Pierce

EXCUSED: Jim Haskins, Joe Witkowski, Delores Pierce

****Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1841**

1. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Duane Pierce, seconded by Joan Brusky to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. Approve/Modify Minutes of August 15, 2017.

Motion made by Joan Brusky, seconded by Ed Koslowski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

4. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.

CVSO Jerry Polus reported there has been a nice increase in the number of veterans signed up for the Honor Rewards program. There are currently 267 veterans participating and 83 businesses. The increase of veterans is due in part to Heather Phillips of the Register of Deeds office attending the Fair with her computer and signing up members. Polus said Phillips has indicated she is willing to attend other veteran events to sign people up for the program. Chair Erickson informed he put information on the Honors Reward Program in the newsletter for the fishing club he belongs to and he feels that may also lead to an increase in the number of participants.

5. Update re: 2017 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.

Polus thanked the Subcommittee from the bottom of his heart for all of their hard work, planning and commitment to the event. He said the event gets better each year and he attributes that to all of the hard work put forward by this group. Erickson gave extra thanks to Joan Brusky for all of her work in collecting raffle prizes and said it was the best raffle they have ever had, by far.

The door prize process was discussed and Brusky wondered if it would be better to have the prizes set up near where the person drawing the numbers is. Koslowski said the door prizes could be set up next to the band. He also thought keeping the band in the tent was a good idea. Erickson said towards the end of the event there were not very many people listening to the band and it was suggested that maybe next year the band could play earlier. Koslowski also said arranging the stage differently to face the midway may be an option. Louise Dahlke said the stage can be set up wherever we want it. Erickson pointed out that next year's event will most likely be held on Sunday instead of Saturday so we may want to adjust the time the band performs and even the time of the ceremony to finish earlier in the day instead of right before the Fair wraps up. All of these details will be discussed next year as we enter the planning phase of the event.

Brusky also said there seemed to be a little confusion as to who was being honored at the event; some veterans thought all veterans were to go up for a certificate. Brusky said that in some cases there are older people who

could also have hearing issues and she felt that saying who was being honored as much as possible would be a good idea. Duane Pierce said he and Ed Koslowski knew the majority of those who got a certificate and they were legitimate. Erickson added that he also presented a few certificates after the event to people who were not able to attend. There are some leftover certificates and dog tags that will be available in Polus's office and at the DAV.

Koslowski asked if thank you notes had been sent to sponsors and door prize donors. Brusky indicated she will get thank you notes out to the organization she solicited and Erickson said he also has a thank you note on his computer that he can run out.

Dahlke referenced comments made earlier about the small number of people listening to the band. She said that for whatever reason, people do not seem to sit around long to listen to bands in any of the tents along the midway throughout the Fair. Typical attendance is between a handful and about 20 people for a band.

The date of next year's event was also discussed. The Veterans Appreciation Day event will be held on Sunday, August 19, 2018. Polus advised the group to start thinking about what group to recognize at next year's event. Dahlke said she heard a suggestion to honor widows and widowers of veterans. Another suggestion was to honor the National Guard and Reserves. This is something we will discuss further next year when preparations for the 2018 event start.

6. Discussion re: Veterans Day activities.

Koslowski recalled that last year businesses were contacted via postcard for information regarding offers for Veterans Day because this Subcommittee was short on people to make personal contacts. He shared the list of businesses that provide Veterans Day discounts or other offers. Those businesses that were not part of the Honor Rewards program were contacted by postcard. Area veteran organizations were also contacted via postcard to provide information regarding their Veterans Day events. Polus said he has staff in his office make annual contact with the veteran's organizations to keep contact information updated. Koslowski asked Polus to have his staff update his master list of organization and contact information.

Koslowski continued that area businesses that are not part of the Honor Rewards program will be contacted again this year via postcard. He explained that in the past there was a group of Subcommittee members that made personal contact with the businesses, but now since the membership of the group has dwindled that is not possible. He asked the Subcommittee to let him know if any businesses should be added to the list. It was also noted that many of the larger, nationwide businesses provide discounts every day to veterans rather than doing specials just on Veterans Day.

Brusky said she would be willing to make personal contact with some businesses. Koslowski asked her to let him know what businesses she wishes to contact and he will also talk to Jim Haskins to find out what businesses, if any, he wants to personally contact and then he will send postcards to the rest. Koslowski asked this group to let him know of any Veterans Day activities happening. Dahlke said she can keep Koslowski up to date with what the ADRC is doing for Veterans Day as she is involved with their Memory Café.

7. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.

Polus talked about the UPS group that meets quarterly at City Hall. The UPS is made up of various veterans' organizations from throughout the area. The leader of the group contacted County Executive Troy Streckenbach to see if he had any suggestions to increase the attendance at the UPS Veterans Day ceremony at the Brown County Veterans' Arena. Polus said he advised Streckenbach this is not a county planned function and explained to him that most people who would like to attend Veterans Day events are working since veterans do not get the day off. He suggested to Streckenbach that the County could somehow allow employees to take Veterans Day off as a personal day under a few different scenarios. Erickson recalled that former member Sherry Steenbock worked for years to get Veterans Day off with pay but it didn't really get anywhere. Polus felt that veterans may like to use Veterans Day as a personal day, but other employees probably would not.

8. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Brusky, Dahlke, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce & Witkowski).

-Erickson informed the group that a motion was made at the County's Education and Recreation Committee that assuming the current Veterans' Memorial Arena is torn down and a new facility built, that the name of the new facility contain the word "Veterans" in whatever it is named. In addition, there was an agreement to have a veteran's memorial created with parts of the old building.

Erickson also noted he had recently visited the military museum at Barkers Island in Superior, WI. He said if anyone is ever in that area they should check it out because it was very interesting.

-Brusky indicated she recently received an invitation to some graduations in the treatment courts and noted that there is also a veteran's court, but she never gets information or invitations for that. She asked how the court is doing and how many graduates there have been and if people are welcome to attend the court sessions. It was indicated the sessions are open to the public and Duane Pierce said he has attended a few. Polus said he has a staff member that typically handles veteran's court activities so he is not aware of how many graduates there have been. He said that court is held every Friday at 9:30 am and is open to the public. Pierce said he heard there is about a 90% success rate of people who take part in the veteran's court.

-Dahlke did not have anything further to report.

-Koslowski thanked Dahlke for taking down the indoor display at the Fair following the Veterans Appreciation event and storing it. Koslowski also said the NEW Veterans FB page now has over 500 members and there are people throughout the State that post to let people know of different events.

-Pierce reported the quarterly raffle at Pearly Gates will be held on October 2 beginning at 5:00 pm, although he recommended people to come early to get a seat. He also reported that the AMVETS post will be doing a meat raffle at Pearly Gates on October 14 at 2:00 pm.

9. **Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Brusky asked if there was an estimate of the number that attended the Fair event. Koslowski said they handed out about 175 raffle tickets and Pierce estimated there were 400 – 500 that went through the tent throughout the day. Dahlke noted that overall Fair attendance increased this year and Koslowski felt the event was better attended this year than last.

10. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Joan Brusky to adjourn at 5:19 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Recording Secretary